

REMARKS

Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which more clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance. Currently, claims 1-10 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,162,636 to Randolph, Jr. Reconsideration of claim 1 in view of the amendments and remarks herein is requested.

Randolph, Jr. discloses an electric cooking means including a conventional electric hot plate (Column 3, line 47-52) mounted on a surrounding glass mounting plate. The glass mounting plate and hotplate have a chamber beneath, and the chamber includes on its lower periphery an illuminating lamp, see Figure 2. In use, light from the illumination source passes through the chamber and is incident on the underside of the glass mounting plate. The mounting plate includes a mask having a marginal portion which allows the light to be visible from above for indicating the operational state of the hot plate (Column 4, line 24-33).

Claim 1 requires “A cooktop including at least one heating means beneath a substantially colourless and transparent ceramic glass surface...”. Randolph, Jr. does not disclose a ceramic glass cooktop wherein the heating means is located beneath a substantially colourless and transparent ceramic glass surface as required by claim 1. Randolph, Jr. discloses a conventional electric hotplate having a non-transparent cooking surface which is separate and above the level of a glass mounting plate.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the glass surface has “an opaque layer on sections of the underside thereof ... indication means positioned directly underneath and proximate to said surface wherein said opaque layer is not present directly above said indication means ...” Randolph, Jr. does not disclose a light source directly below and proximate to a substantially colourless and transparent ceramic glass surface as required by amended claim 1. The indicator disclosed by Randolph, Jr. is located away from the glass surface at the lower periphery of the illuminating chamber and is not positioned directly beneath portions of the ceramic glass surface where the opaque layer is not present.

Claim 1 further requires “a control means configured to determine the temperature of said surface above said heating means ...”, wherein the “surface above said heating means” being the substantially colourless and transparent ceramic glass surface. The cooking means of Randolph, Jr. does not have any surface above a heater, as the heater forms the cooking surface itself, the glass is only provided as a surrounding mounting plate. Further, Randolph, Jr. does not disclose any means for determining the temperature of the glass surface as required by amended claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is allowable over Randolph, Jr. Reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 1 is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 3 [sic] were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Randolph, Jr. Claims 2 and 3 are dependent upon claim 1 which Applicant submits is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-10 were objected as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. In the amendments herein, the claims have been placed in proper form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 4-10 are dependent upon claim 1 which Applicant submits is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 4-10 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

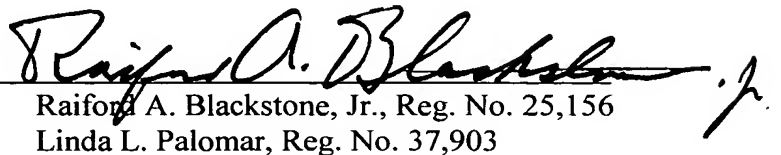
A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time to extend the date for response up to and including October 20, 2003 is concurrently filed herewith.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

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